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in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between the larger and smaller holes of each of at least the electron beam passage apertures in the central portion of the effective area being situated in a central portion in the thickness-direction of the mask body within a range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body from one surface side of the effective area, when the thickness of the mask body is represented by 1,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between the larger and smaller holes of each of the electron beam passage apertures located on the major axis and in the peripheral portion of the effective area being situated closer to one of the surface sides of the effective area than the joint portion of each of the electron beam passages apertures in the central portion of the effective area, the larger hole being offset against the smaller hole in the direction of the major axis.

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2. (Cancelled)

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3. (Amended) A shadow mask according to claim 1, wherein said joint portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region between the minor axis of the effective area and a position at a distance of  $2L/3$  in the major-axis direction from the minor axis is situated within the range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body, from one of the surface sides of effective area, where L is the length from the minor axis of the effective area to a major-axis-direction end thereof, and

said joint portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region at the distance of  $2U/3$  or more in the major-axis direction from the minor axis of the effective area is situated outside the range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness direction of the mask body.

4. (Amended) A color cathode ray tube comprising:  
an envelope including a substantially rectangular face panel having a phosphor screen on the inner surface thereof;

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a shadow mask opposed to the phosphor screen; and  
an electron gun for emitting electron beams toward the phosphor screen through the  
shadow mask,

the shadow mask comprising a mask body including:

a substantially rectangular effective area having a minor axis and a major axis  
extending at right angles to each other and a large number of electron beam passage apertures  
formed in the effective area,

each of the electron beam passage apertures being formed of a communication hole  
connecting a larger hole opening in one surface of the effective area and a smaller hole  
opening in the other surface of the effective area,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between  
the larger and smaller holes of each of at least the electron beam passage apertures in the  
central portion of the effective area being situated within a range of  $0.5 \pm 1/6$  in the thickness  
direction of the mask body from one surface side of the effective area when the thickness of  
the mask body is represented by 1,

in a cross section of the mask body in the major axis direction, a joint portion between  
the larger and smaller holes of each of the electron beam passage apertures located on the  
major axis and in the peripheral portion of the effective area being situated closer to one of  
the surface sides of the effective area than the joint portion of each of the electron beam  
passages apertures in the central portion of the effective area, the larger hole being offset  
against the smaller hole in the direction of the major axis.

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5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Amended) A color cathode ray tube according to claim 4, wherein said joint  
portion of each of the electron beam passage apertures in a region between the minor axis of  
the effective area and a position at a distance of  $2L/3$  in the major-axis direction from the